

The Bluebird

Newsletter of the Prince George's Audubon Society

PGAS is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society

May-August 2014

President's Perch



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This issue of *The Bluebird* marks a chapter milestone as we go “green” by emailing it to those for whom we have email addresses. We will also continue to post it on our web site and mail it to members who prefer that. We want to keep all of you abreast of our chapter’s opportunities and activities - and hope to see you at them.

Speaking of milestones:

- Larry and Sharon Williams and Terry Watson were the face of our chapter at the Bowie Green Expo April 12. At a PGAS table that offered a variety of free literature; milkweed seeds to plant to benefit monarch butterflies; handouts for our bird walks, programs and other chapter activities; and nature/bird pocket guides for sale, they represented who we are and what we do. If you can volunteer an hour or so at Bowie’s 6/7 and Greenbelt’s 5/30 festivals, please let us know.
- We are proud to announce that PGAS has signed an Adopt-A-Pond Maintenance Agreement with the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission with whom we have had a cooperative relationship since the clean-up and creation of the Fran Uhler Natural Area in 1987. Every month, PGAS hosts three regular bird walks, including, since 2003, at the Governor Bridge Natural Area (GBNA). Its diversity of habitats makes it a great monthly birding morning year-round. Picking up trash became a regular part of bird walks there. Now, we will continue to do so formally starting with a Spring Clean-up on June 21. We hope you’ll join us to help keep this natural area.....natural looking.
- On a personal level, a pair of Carolina Chickadees has nested in the tall cedar nest box in my backyard my daughter gifted me years ago, and has a clutch of 7 eggs! I am regularly reporting their status as part of the Chickadee Project of the Neighborhood Nestwatch: Food Web Study. The male was banded this morning, his age, health and other data noted before being freed unharmed to help Smithsonian scientists solve critical questions about the survival of our backyard birds. The female is next, and fledglings when they are five days old. Stay tuned!

As always, let me hear from you with questions or comments,

Maureen

301-262-5148 (h); mblades@comcast.net

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Audubon’s Mission Statement: To conserve & restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, & their habitats for the benefit of humanity & the earth’s biological diversity.

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Upcoming Program Meetings & Events

Programs are held at the College Park Airport Annex, 1909 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740. Doors open at 7:00 pm to mingle; refreshments available. All programs are open free of charge to all who are interested. 301-262-5148 for more information. See www.pgaudubon.org for directions.

Recording and Identifying Flight Calls of Nocturnal Migrants - for the Fun of It!

presented by

Andy Martin

7:30 pm – Tuesday, May 13

Join members of the Prince George's Audubon Society and Patuxent Bird Club to hear Andy speak about his experiences in the new field of recording the nocturnal flight calls of migrating birds. Most small birds migrate at night to avoid predators, and they vocalize distinctive chips to stay in touch with each other in the dark. These calls can be recorded surprisingly well with modest equipment and the birds identified from the recording. Andy will play examples of these recordings and describe the equipment and techniques used. This is a fascinating subject!

Andy switched careers from business to wildlife studies. He went back to grad school for a degree in Conservation Biology, and then worked on inland fisheries issues for the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. He discovered birding about 15 years ago, and that led to his interest in this topic.

Member-Share Night:

Favorite Nature Photos, Stories and What Have You

presented by us/you!

7:30 pm – Tuesday, June 10

Join members of the Prince George's Audubon Society and Patuxent Bird Club as they share their favorite nature and wildlife photos. Member or not, bring *your* favorite photo(s) or sit back and enjoy those of others. Please contact Fred Fallon at 410-286-8152 or fwfallon@ymail.com if you intend to bring photos, how many, whether they are digital or emulsion slides, and what equipment/projector is required, so we can try to have the appropriate equipment on hand.

Audubon at Blackwater Day

10 am-3 pm, Saturday, May 31

Join regional Audubon members as Pickering Creek Audubon Center partners with Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to highlight the value and importance of salt marshes. Help plant salt marsh grasses in the morning, break for lunch, and tour this unique refuge in the afternoon, one of the largest contiguous tidal marshes in the northeastern U.S. Free. Pizza lunch provided. The Black Rail, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, and Clapper Rail, all on the Am. Bird Conservancy and NAS Watch Lists, will benefit from your work there - people, too, as we help marshes, our first line of defense, adapt to rising sea levels and storm damage. *You* can make a difference. Contact Maureen by **May 14** to make reservations and for more details, 301-262-5148 or mblades@comcast.net. See more at www.pgaudubon.org.

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Upcoming Bird Walks, Events & Other News

PGAS sponsors bird walks at two natural areas of the Patuxent River Park co-managed by the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission & PGAS, & at the Luther Goldman Birding Trail at Lake Artemesia Natural Area. For complete details & directions, go to www.pgaudubon.org.

May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, 7:30 am - Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet in parking lot end of Lemons Bridge Rd. off Rt. 197, Bowie, MD, just n. of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact: Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com)

Sat, May 10. Annual May Count. Broad latitude as to how long and where to count within the county. Contact P.G. County coordinator Fred Fallon, 410-286-8152, to avoid overlap, or for suggestions on good, available areas to cover.

Thurs., May 15, June 5 & 19, July 3 & 17, Aug. 7 & 21, 6:00 pm - Luther Goldman Birding Trail at Lake Artemesia. Meet in parking lot at Berwyn Rd. & Ballew Av., Berwyn Heights, MD. No reservations needed. Contact: David Mozurkewich, Patuxent Bird Club, 301-509-2212 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net

Sat., May 16 – Endangered Species Day! 2014 is the 100-year anniversary of the death of Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon. We have brought back the Bald Eagle & Brown Pelican. Whooping Cranes & Kirtland Warblers are still here because of conservation efforts. For area events and more, see www.endangered.org.

Sat., May 17, June 21 (also see next column), July 12, Aug. 16 – Governor Bridge Natural Area, 7:30 am. Meet in parking lot, Governor Bridge Rd., Bowie, MD, about 1 mi. east of Rt. 301. No reservations needed. Contact: Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com).

Sun., May 18 – last day of National Audubon Society's *Hummingbirds at Home* garden exhibit at Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, Orlando, FL. To schedule guided tour, contact Don Kendzior at donkendzior@gmail.com. Park tickets required.

Sun, May 25, 7 am – All-day trip to DE beaches for shorebird feeding frenzy on horseshoe crab eggs. Meet at Bowie Park & Ride off Rt. 197 just s. of Rt. 50. Bring water, lunch, and scope if possible. Reservations needed. Contact: Fred Fallon, 410-286-8152 or fwfallon@ymail.com.

Newsletter Editor Needed

The Bluebird is published 4-5 times/year, posted online & emailed to members. Work can be done from home, and members provide much of the news. Questions? To discuss, contact: Maureen at 301-262-5148 (h), or mblades@comcast.net, or Meghan, 301-464-2663 (w), or 202-247-6974 (c); or polyxenes@verizon.net.

Adopt-A-Pond Spring Clean-up Governor Bridge Natural Area Sat., June 21 – 7:30 am

Meet in parking lot. Volunteers welcome. Bring gloves. Trash bags provided. Briefing of Adopt-A-Pond program and safety rules followed by trash p.u. – and birding, of course! No experience necessary. Contact: Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com)

Election of PGAS

2014-2015 Officers & Board of Directors

The following will be presented at the May 13 annual meeting (not June 10 as mistakenly listed in the April newsletter). Current PGAS members of the National Audubon Society are eligible to vote or run for office. Nominations are welcome from the floor, or can be called in beforehand to 301-262-5148.

OFFICERS:

President: Maureen Blades (Incumbent)
Vice-President: Meghan First (Incumbent)
Treasurer: Larry Williams (Appointed)
Secretary: Sherry Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bob Elvander (Incumbent)
Lynette Fullerton
Beth Kantrowitz (Incumbent)
Mike Sampson (Incumbent)
Bill Sefton (Incumbent)
Teresa Watson (Incumbent)



Prince George's Audubon Society

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The Prince George's Audubon Society (PGAS) was established 42 years ago as a chapter of the National Audubon Society to serve northern Prince George's County and parts of Anne Arundel County. In the ensuing years, PGAS was instrumental in the clean-up & creation of the Fran Uhler Natural Area (FUNA), the creation of the Luther Goldman Birding Trail at Lake Artemesia, starting bluebird nest box trails, conducting clean-ups, and providing free nature/bird walks, field trips & countless programs to its membership & the general public. In cooperation with the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, PGAS has led bird walks at FUNA for 27 years & at the Governor Bridge Natural Area (GBNA) for 11. Incorporated in the State of Maryland, PGAS is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization of over 800 members with officers elected by the general membership. Membership in PGAS comes automatically from joining the National Audubon Society. Members receive *The Bluebird*, official newsletter of this chapter, keeping them informed of bird walks, field trips, monthly programs and other news of interest. In 2001, the PGAS and the Patuxent Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland & Ornithological Society, began jointly planning programs & field trips. Come join us - and learn more about the natural world, birds, their challenges, and what we can all do to help.

New Membership Application

Join the **National Audubon Society** for an introductory rate of \$20.00 & receive these benefits:

- Four issues of renown *Audubon* magazine
- Membership in the local chapter (PGAS)
- PGAS newsletter, *The Bluebird*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Please make checks payable to: National Audubon Society & mail to:
PGAS, P.O. Box 1311, Bowie, MD 20718-1311

Prince George's Audubon Society Chapter C2ZL010Z

